

**From:** Ed Lyons  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/12/01 7:33pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs:

First of all, let me thank you, the government for giving the ordinary citizen the chance to submit comments on this case.

I am against the settlement for two reasons: it does not adequately punish past behavior and will not deter similar behavior in the future.

I am a software developer who works primarily with middleware and the Java programming language. Even at the level of code itself, Microsoft thwarts innovation and intentionally prevents competing technologies from either working well or working at all. There is a grand design at hand that will not be undone by consent decrees. Microsoft's entire company is dedicated to monopolization and exclusion in everything they do. Their identity is so well established that I do not believe that they can truly be punished and deterred by something they see fit to agree to.

Would it make sense to forge an agreement with a fox to not eat chickens from the coop when he is hungry every night? Would it not make more sense to erect an impassable fence instead?

Yes, it would take a few more years to properly impose a remedy on them. But it will take many more years when you have to start this process again. You should already know this as they willfully violated the last consent decree. Has a lengthy trial full of lies and half-truths convinced you that their management team is somehow more committed to honesty this time? Microsoft, who won't even pay the search for truth enough of a compliment to even admit that Windows is a monopoly, is sure you will rather cut your losses rather than go the distance. It knows that violations of the new decree will carry on for years in further litigation. It believes that you don't really want to go the distance.

I hope that you don't prove them right.

Sincerely,

Ed Lyons  
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